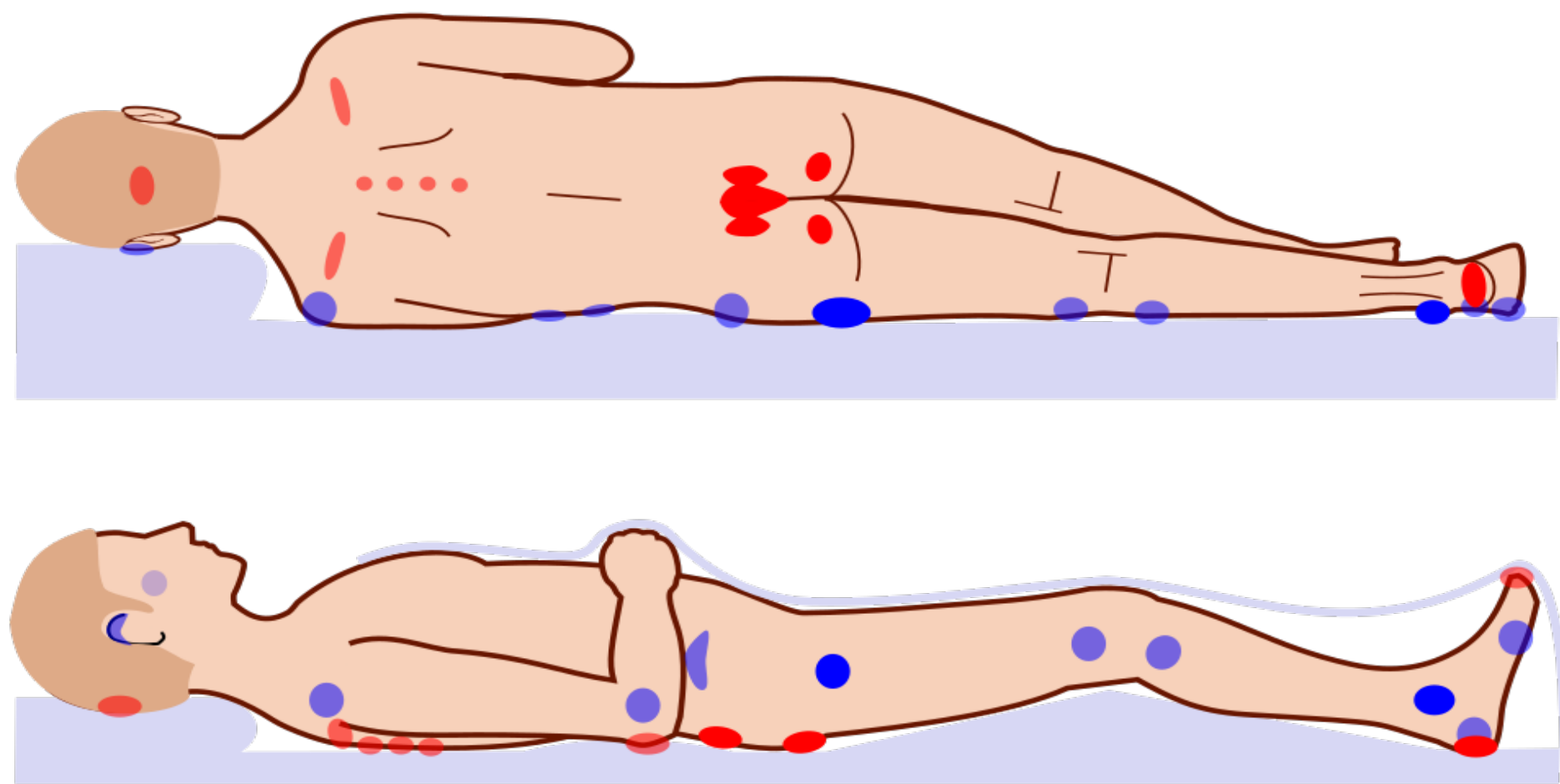




SKIN IS IN! An Evidence-Based Practice Project in the Emergency Care Center (ECC)

BACKGROUND

- Identifying potential skin issues and initiating microclimate reduction practices before patients leave the ECC is a necessity for complete patient care
- The skin assessment portion of a patient’s complete assessment is performed after their critical care needs are addressed
- Prior to the EPIC conversion, no consistent method to document microclimate reduction intervention existed



PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to implement a reporting measure to increase identification and management of skin issues early in the patient’s hospitalization.

For all adults admitted from the ECC, does initiation of a built-in 2-question Skin Assessment Prompt, completed at the time of hand-off to the in-patient receiving nurse:

- Increase the recognition of potential skin impairment and/or pressure injury (PI) by the ECC’s RN and PCT staff?
- Result in at least one documented/communicated microclimate reduction intervention?

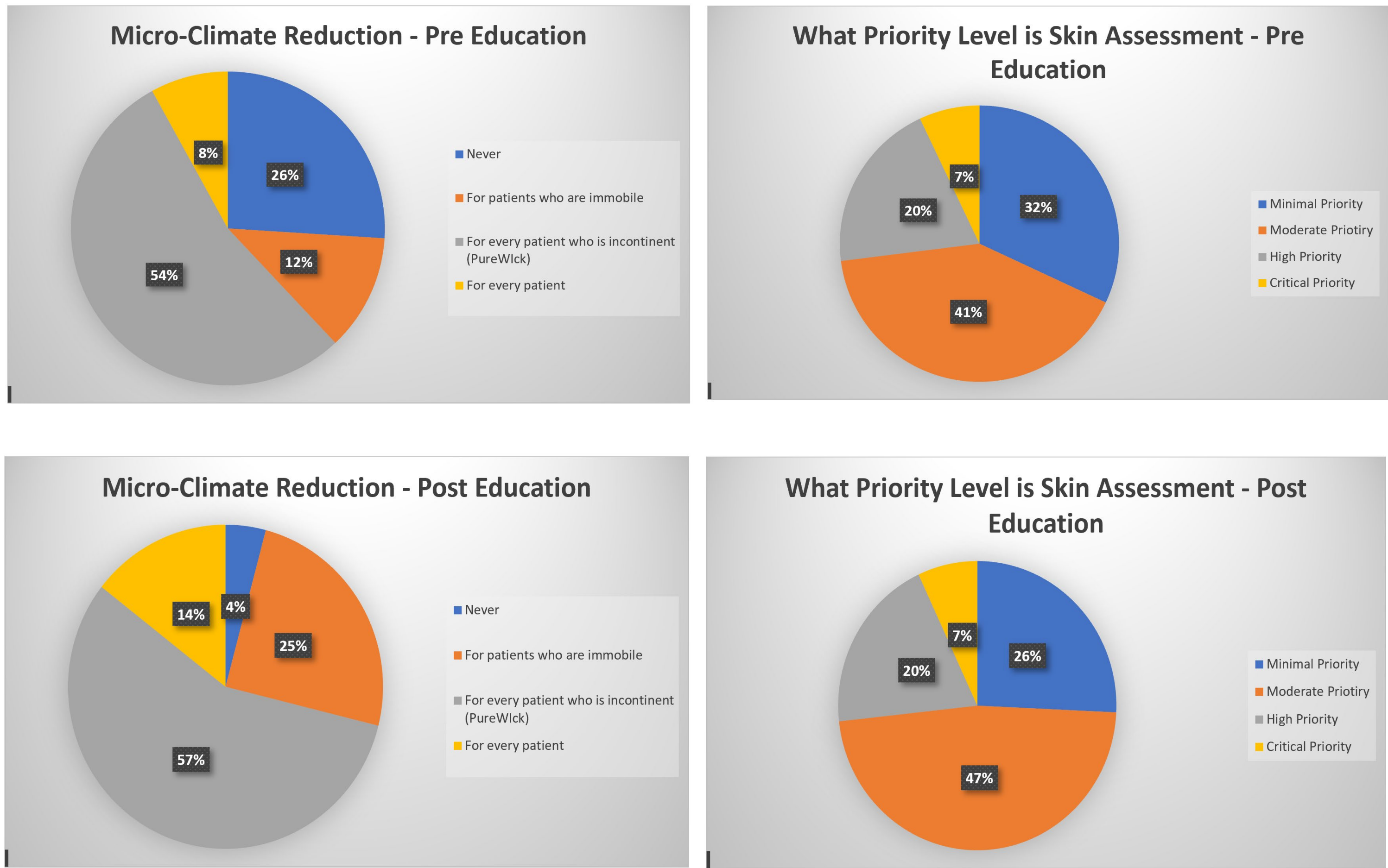
METHODS

- Design: evidence-based Quality Improvement Project
- Participants: Adults admitted from the ECC
- Instruments:
 - Survey: practice/attitude toward skin assessment in the ECC
 - Updated “Ready to Move Out Ticket” (report sheet brought to the inpatient unit)
- Procedure:
 - Anonymous surveys completed to determine ECC RNs current practice with skin assessment
 - Audit “Ready to Move Out Ticket” hand-off sheet prior to Project launch
 - Staff education
 - 5 weeks period
 - Content - skin assessment, microclimate reduction interventions, and pressure injury prevention
 - Education delivery - micro-teaching, staff meetings, change-of-shift announcements, and unit wide emails
 - Survey and audits of “Ready to Move Out Ticket” at 60 days post education

RESULTS

- Pre-education
 - 41% of staff rated skin as “moderate priority”
 - Microclimate interventions on 74% of patients
 - 59% completion of “Ready to Move Out Ticket”
- Post-education
 - 47% of staff rated skin as “moderate priority”
 - Microclimate interventions on 96% of patients
 - 68% completion of “Ready to Move Out Ticket”

RESULTS



DISCUSSION

- Adding skin assessment and microclimate reduction strategies to “Ready to Move Out Ticket” acted as an effective reminder to complete prior to hospital admission
- Prioritization of skin care survey results indicates the need for continued focus in the emergency setting

CONCLUSION

Intensive education and various “reminder strategies” can make a substantial difference in early identification of skin issues and application of preventive measures.

REFERENCES

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